

A NEW COMBINATION IN *PENSTEMON*
(SCROPHULARIACEAE)

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One of the more distinctive beard-tongues found in the sandy portions of northern Arizona, southern and western Utah, and southeastern Nevada is *Penstemon angustifolius* ssp. *venosus*. The pinkish-lavender to pinkish flowers of ssp. *venosus* mark it as one of the more readily recognized of the penstemons found in this part of the western United States. The typical subspecies is found far to the east on the high plains of the central United States. The ssp. *angustifolius* generally has narrower, more sharply acute foliage, typical blue flowers that are shorter, and mature capsules that are shorter and narrower than those found in ssp. *venosus*. The bracts in the inflorescences of ssp. *angustifolius* are not venose on both sides as in ssp. *venosus*, and the former has the unfortunate feature of blackening upon drying. As a result of its green, glaucous foliage, bright pinkish to lavender flowers, and general rareness, the ssp. *venosus* is often collected preferentially by even the most seasoned collector.

Many collectors have noted their dissatisfaction with Keck's placement of this plant with *Penstemon angustifolius*, but as yet no one has proposed a specific name for the taxon. So that a specific name might be available to Janice C. Beatley for her floristic work on the Nevada Test Site, the following combination is proposed:

Penstemon venosus (Keck) Reveal, stat. et comb. nov., based on *P. angustifolius* Nutt. ex Pursh ssp. *venosus* Keck in Kearney and Peebles, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 29:490. 1939.

As a distinct species, *Penstemon venosus* may be distinguished by its flower color, leaf size and shape, the nature of the floral bracts, and its disjunct distribution.

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